

From: [REDACTED]
To: "Jones, Brent C" <bjones@seattleschools.org>, [REDACTED]
Subject: 2023 10 11 Superintendent Talking Points_updated20231011
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Good Afternoon,

Please see slightly revised talking points for this evening that revises sequence of topics and incorporates language about supports available to the SPS community regarding the Israel-Hamas Conflict.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

10/11/2023 Regular Board Meeting
Superintendent Talking Points

- Good evening to you all. Thank you for being here this evening.

Filipinx Heritage Month

- The month of October is Filipinx Heritage Month, a time to celebrate all the Filipinx Americans past and present who have made the United States what it is today.
- In fact, Filipinx people have been here even before the U.S. became a nation. The month of October is significant because it commemorates the first documented landing of Filipinos in what is now known as the U.S. in October 1587.
- Seattle is home to a strong Filipinx community, and in our schools, we are proud to uplift and immerse ourselves in the stories, accomplishments, and culture of the community.

Disability Awareness Month

- October is also Disability History and Awareness Month.
- Throughout October, every public school in the state of Washington engages in educational activities that teach disability history and center the voices of people with disabilities.
- By celebrating the pride, dignity, strength, and autonomy of people with disabilities, we combat discrimination and exclusion.
- Students, staff, and community members with disabilities are an integral part of the Seattle Public Schools community.
- During Disability History and Awareness Month, and every other month in the year, we continue to strive to dismantle barriers and create fully inclusive environments that allow every student to thrive.

Israel-Palestine Conflict

- Finally, while we have much to celebrate, we also must support our students and families who are directly affected by the violence in Israel and Palestine.
- Our Seattle Public Schools community represents many races, ethnicities, and backgrounds – including families with cultural ties to Israel and Palestine.
- Because the situation is complex and emotionally and politically charged, it is critical we continue to create safe and welcoming environments for our students and families.
- While we as individuals hold different opinions about the conflict and complex history of Israel and Palestine, anti-Semitic or Islamophobic speech or acts will never be tolerated in our district.
- We are here to support you and your families.
- If you or your student feel anxious, please reach out for support. SPS and the greater Seattle community have many resources available.

K-3 Staffing

- Speaking of ensuring students have supportive environments...
- We've heard from many families and community members this week who have concerns about shifts in school staffing to meet a state required staffing ratio.
- I want to make clear that we are listening.

- We recognize that changes during the school year can cause anxiety and frustration for our families.
- And, district leadership and principals have worked hard to minimize disruption and make adjustments as early in the school year as possible.
- The adjustments made ensure that our students benefit from smaller class sizes, while also ensuring that Seattle Public Schools remains fiscally responsible.

Financial Policy

- Turning to the business before us, I'm looking forward to the board's discussion of the draft financial policy being introduced this evening.
- I'm anticipating a lively debate.
- As staff, we will be listening attentively and awaiting next steps.

Progress Monitoring

- Finally, staff and I have an opportunity this evening to present an update on our work towards meeting our early literacy and mathematics goals.
- This update will include data that demonstrates our progress, but also lessons learned and how we plan to fine tune our strategy.
- I'm looking forward to having that conversation with you all.

Conclusion

- So without further adieu, I pass it to you President Hersey.